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# Gift of Love







# **REAL LIFE ROMANCE COMICS**



**AVAILABLE NOW AT NEWSAGENTS**

# FAST CARS & FASTER WOMEN

FOR STEVE AND DEBBIE, THE WORLD WAS A GREAT PLACE IN THOSE FABULOUS FIFTIES...THEY DANCED MADLY TO FAST NUMBERS LIKE "ONE O' CLOCK JUMP" AND ELVIS SINGING "BLUE SUEDE SHOES" BUT THEN JOHNNY RAY'S RECORD OF THE "LITTLE WHITE CLOUD THAT CRIED" WOULD COME ON TO CARRY THEM OFF TO DREAMLAND, LOCKED IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS....



THIS IS  
OUR SONG,  
STEVE..

HUH, OH  
YEAH... I'LL  
NEVER FORGET  
IT!

HEY,  
SHE'S  
NEW IN  
TOWN!

LOOK OUT,  
BOYS, YOU'LL  
LOSE YOUR  
EYEBALLS!

HEY, STEVE,  
WHO'S *THAT*  
CHICK?



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NEXT DAY, STEVE TOOK THE LOOT HE'D SAVED FROM CHRISTMAS AND HIS BIRTHDAY, PLUS MOWING LAWNES...

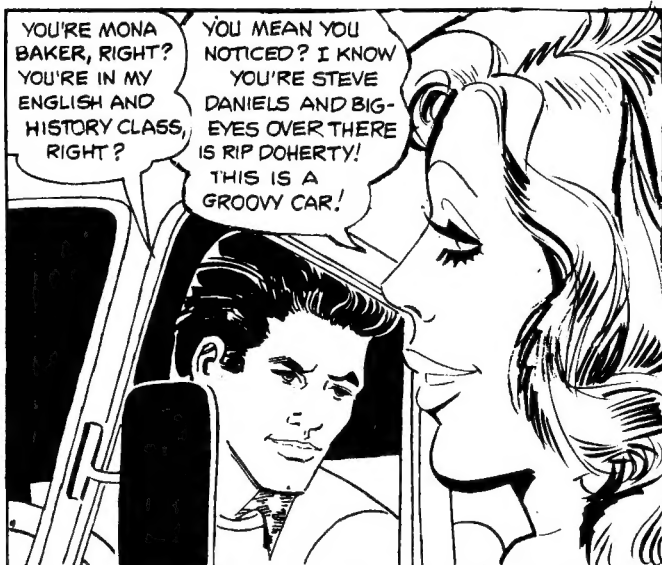


WHEN THE PAINT JOB WAS FINISHED, THE CAR WAS A THING OF BEAUTY... IN STEVE'S STARRY EYES! EVEN DEBBIE LIKED IT.....



WITH THE LOUDER EXHAUST, STEVE'S CAR TURNED ON ALL THE CHICKS...INCLUDING MONA BAKER, THE NEW CHICK IN TOWN!







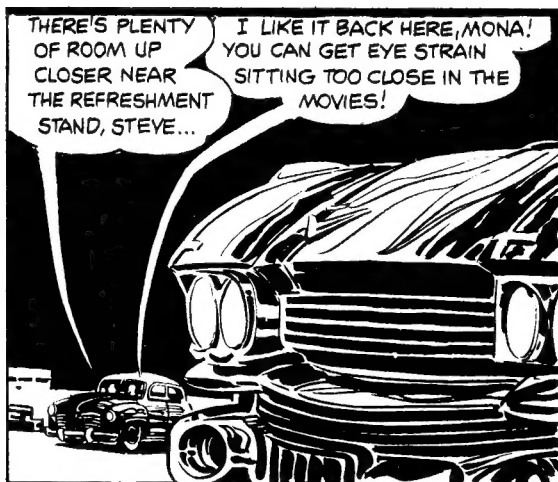
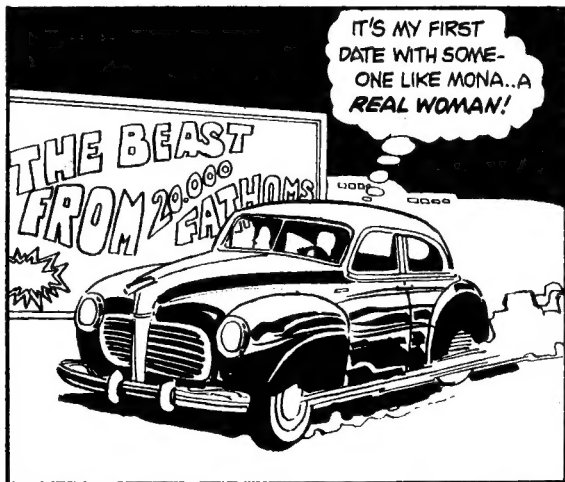


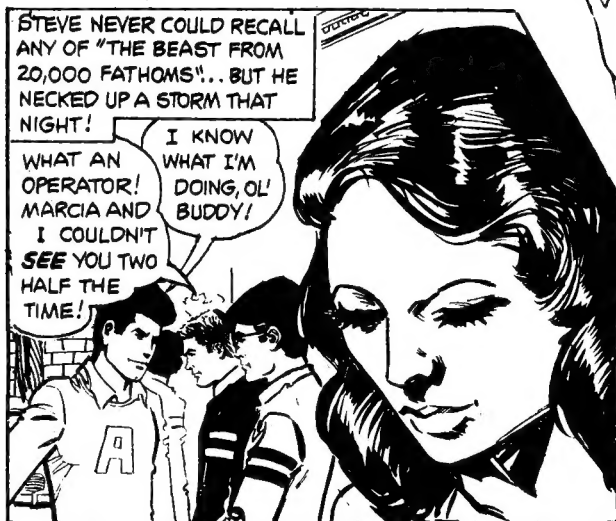
STEVE DIDN'T HEAR A THING THE TEACHERS SAID! HE KEPT THINKING OF MONA...AND THE DRIVE-IN DATE...AND HE WAS GLAD **DEBBIE** WOULDN'T HEAR ABOUT IT.

MONA'S THE GREATEST...ALL THE GUYS SAY SHE'S...









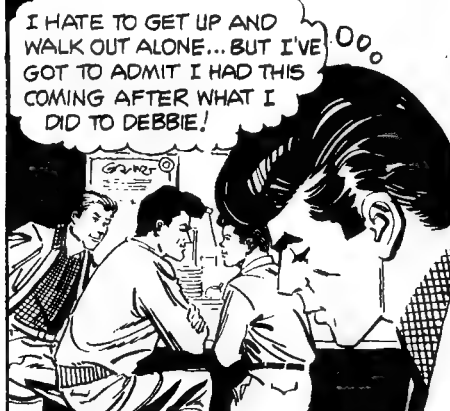


SO STEVE WAS IN HIS GLORY AGAIN THAT NIGHT....





STEVE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! IN A CORNER BOOTH, HE SAW KIDS WATCHING HIM...ONE OF THEM SAID SOMETHING AND THEY ALL GIGGLED! HE'D BEEN PUT DOWN AND HE KNEW IT...

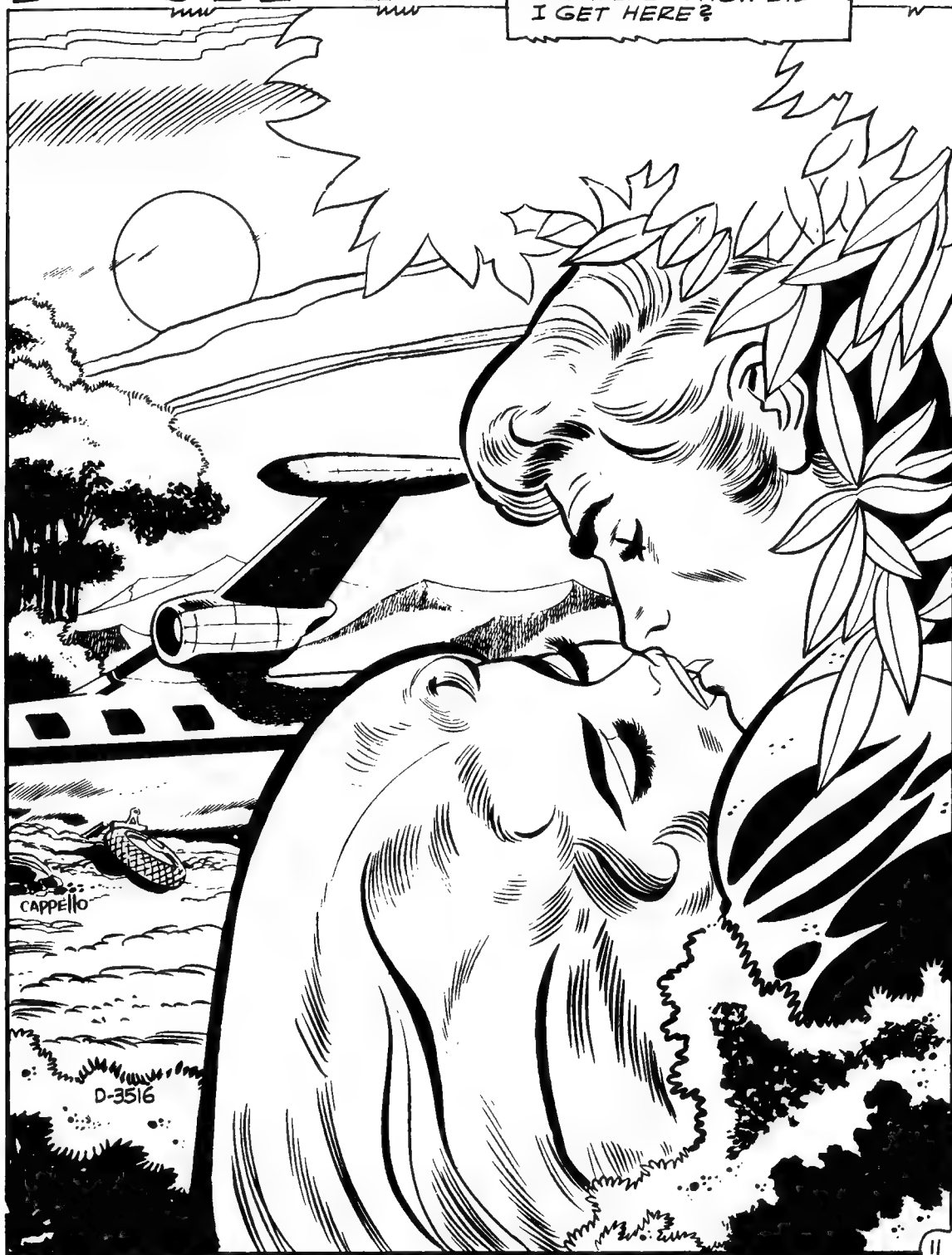


LATER, IN STEVE'S CAR, WHEN HE PARKED OUTSIDE HER HOUSE IN THE BLACK SHADOWS OF THE BIG OAK!



# "NO OTHER WOMEN FOR MILES"

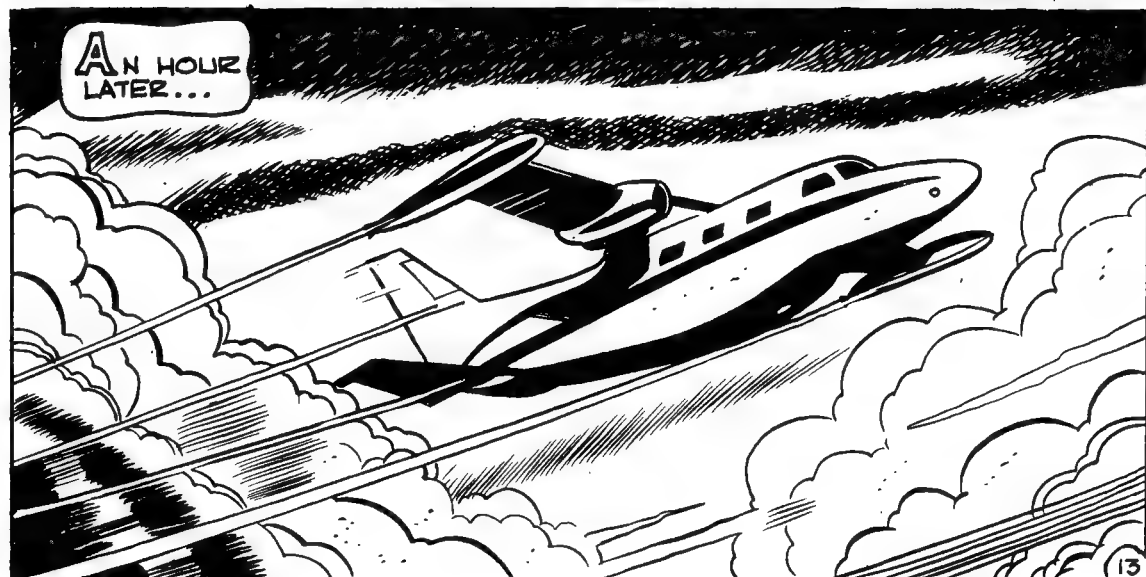
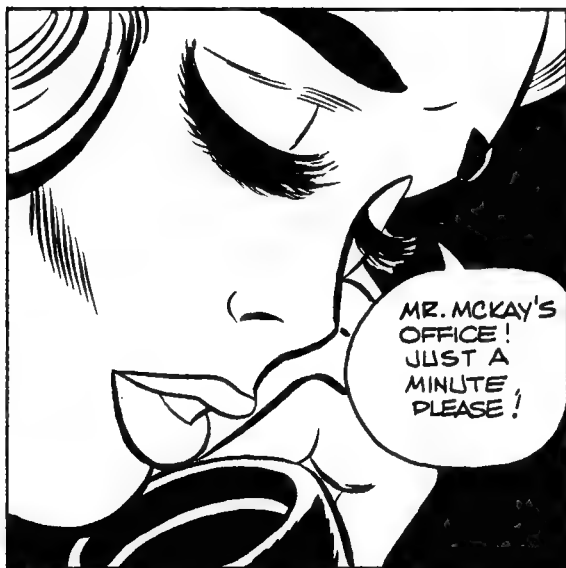
HERE I WAS WITH PERRY  
MCKAY IN THE MIDDLE OF  
NOWHERE... HOW DID  
I GET HERE?

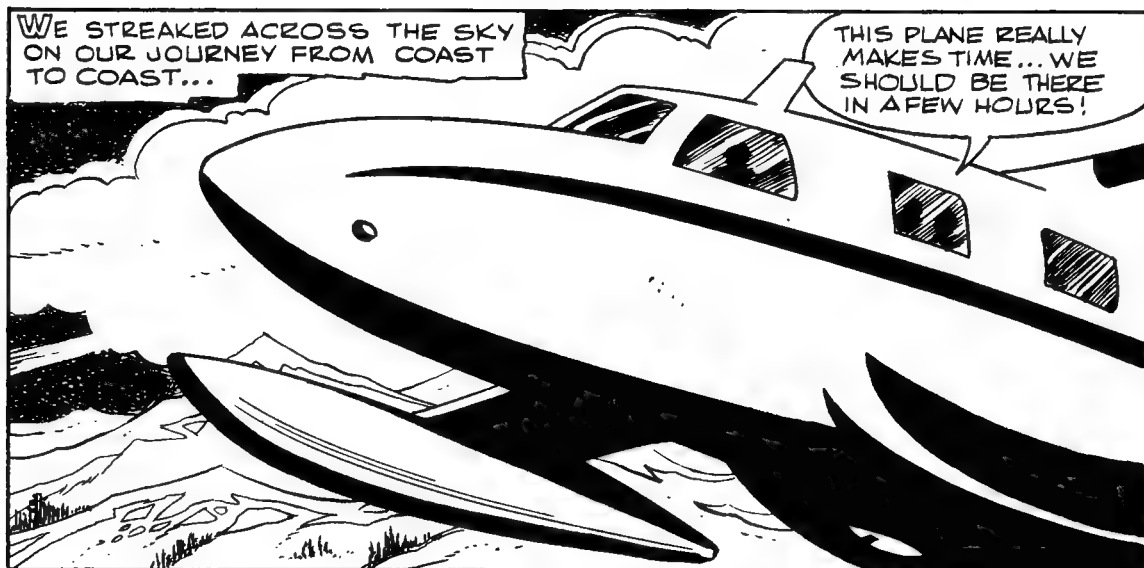


... WELL, PERRY MCKAY WAS THE YOUNG GENIUS OF THE BIG 'Z' CORPORATION! HE RAN IT WITH AN IRON HAND, AND HE WAS MURDER ON HIS SECRETARIES! NONE COULD TAKE IT FOR LONG... AND NOW IT WAS MY TURN...









WE STREAKED ACROSS THE SKY  
ON OUR JOURNEY FROM COAST  
TO COAST...

THIS PLANE REALLY  
MAKES TIME... WE  
SHOULD BE THERE  
IN A FEW HOURS!



FASTEN YOUR  
SEAT BELTS!  
**MAY DAY!**  
**MAY DAY!**

GET INTO YOUR  
SEAT, QUICK...  
GET READY FOR  
ANYTHING... I'M  
GOING FORWARD!



WHAT'S THE  
MATTER,  
JENNINGS?

THE ENGINES  
ARE CUTTING  
OUT, MR. PERRY  
... WE'RE  
LOSING  
ALTITUDE  
**FAST!**



**WE'VE HAD IT! GET  
BACK TO YOUR SEAT...  
WE'RE GOING DOWN!**



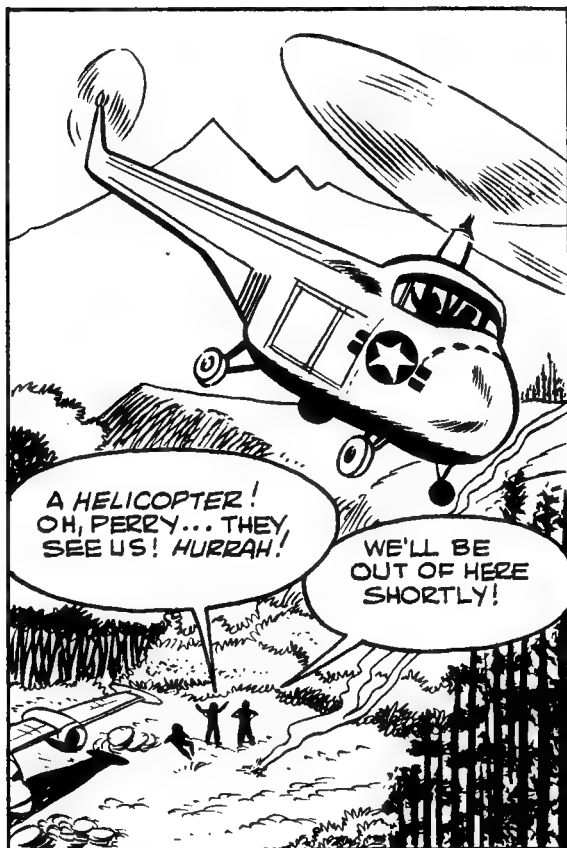












# WHEN WILL THEY TELL HIM ABOUT ME?

LOOK, JESSICA... WE HAD FUN...  
LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT! I JUST  
DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK I'M  
SERIOUS ABOUT YOU!

I IN HIGH SCHOOL, I DATED ALL  
THE WRONG BOYS... THE HEAD-  
STRONG SWINGERS, THE KIDS  
WITH THE FAST CARS... THE CROWD  
WHO THREW THE WRONG KIND  
OF PARTIES! I DIDN'T REALIZE  
I WAS EARNING A REPUTATION  
THAT WOULD STAY WITH ME ALL  
MY LIFE... IN THE YEARS WHEN I'D  
OUTGROWN THOSE PEOPLE...  
I DISCOVERED THE TOWN WASN'T  
AS READY TO FORGET AS I WAS!

WH-WHAT DO YOU  
MEAN, MEL? I... I  
THOUGHT YOU  
L-LOVED ME...

I TOLD MYSELF I  
WAS SIMPLE JUSTICE...  
I WAS PAYING FOR  
BREAKING ALL THE  
RULES WHEN I WAS  
A TEEN-AGER...

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN  
... THEY ALL WANT TO  
DATE ME ... BUT NONE  
OF THEM WANTS ME TO  
BE HIS GIRL!

BUT EVEN WITH MY PAST, THEY COULDN'T KEEP ME FROM WORKING IN THE INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICE ... I'D ALWAYS BEEN PRETTY BRIGHT AND MY STENO AND TYPING WERE BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE'S SO I WAS MR. EGLUND'S PERSONAL SECRETARY...



HE MUST BE STEVEN BARLOW, THE HOT-SHOT MR. EGLUND IS EXPECTING!

I'M STEVE BARLOW... YOU MUST BE JESSICA CRANE, MR. EGLUND'S SUPER-GIRL!

YES, BUT... HOW DID YOU KNOW?

I WAS GIVEN A DETAILED DESCRIPTION, MISS CRANE ... AND IT WAS NO EXAGGERATION! IS MR. EGLUND IN?

I'LL TELL HIM YOU'RE HERE, MR. BARLOW!

MR. BARLOW HAD BEEN SENT FROM CHICAGO TO BECOME MR. EGLUND'S ASSISTANT ... AND MR. E. TOLD ME CONFIDENTIALLY THAT MR. BARLOW WOULD TAKE OVER IN THE NEAR FUTURE!

IF YOU'VE GOT ANY QUESTIONS, JESSICA CAN ANSWER THEM, STEVE! SHE KNOWS MORE ABOUT THIS OFFICE THAN I DO!

IF JESSICA WILL HAVE LUNCH WITH ME... I HAVE SEVERAL QUESTIONS!





THE CHICK AND CHOP WAS WHERE ALL THE 'WHEELS' IN TOWN WENT FOR LUNCH ... I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS VERY SMART OF MRE. ... BUT, AS THEY SAY, HE WAS THE BOSS!

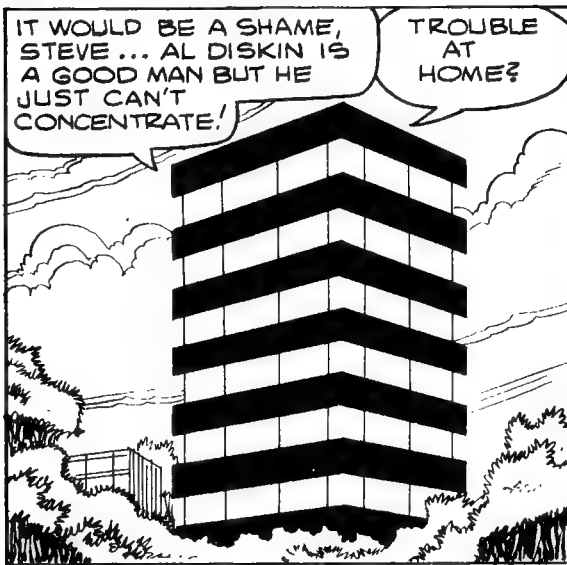






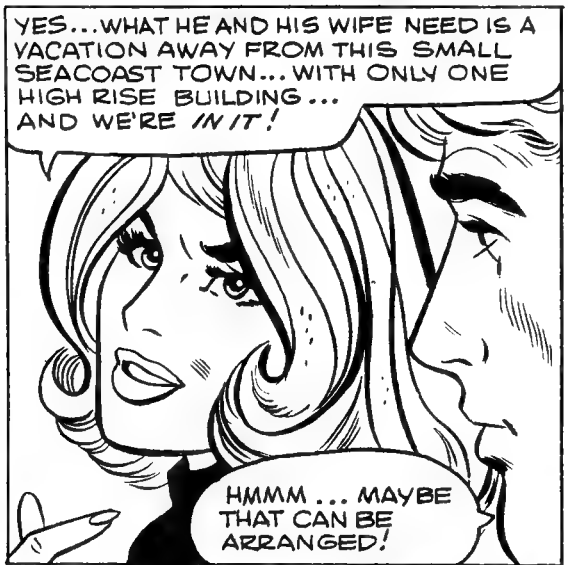
WORKING WITH STEVE WAS FUN... HE HAD A TERRIFIC SENSE OF HUMOR BUT HE WAS ALL BUSINESS WHEN HE HAD TO BE ...

HMMM... MR. DISKIN ISN'T GETTING THE JOB DONE... I'D HATE TO RECOMMEND ANYTHING DRASTIC TO MR.E.!



IT WOULD BE A SHAME, STEVE ... AL DISKIN IS A GOOD MAN BUT HE JUST CAN'T CONCENTRATE!

TROUBLE AT HOME?



YES...WHAT HE AND HIS WIFE NEED IS A VACATION AWAY FROM THIS SMALL SEACOAST TOWN... WITH ONLY ONE HIGH RISE BUILDING ... AND WE'RE IN IT!

HMMM ... MAYBE THAT CAN BE ARRANGED!

IT WASN'T USUALLY DONE ... BUT STEVE MANAGED TO ARRANGE A TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF AL DISKIN TO OUR DENVER BRANCH...



THAT TAKES CARE OF AL! NOW WHAT ABOUT STEVE AND JESSICA? HOW ABOUT RELAXING WITH ME AT DINNER TOMORROW ?

M-MAYBE I'D BETTER NOT, STEVE! YOU MUST KNOW OTHER GIRLS BY NOW...



WILL YOU OR WILL YOU NOT HAVE DINNER WITH ME?  
WELL... ALL RIGHT... I'D LIKE TO VERY MUCH, STEVE!

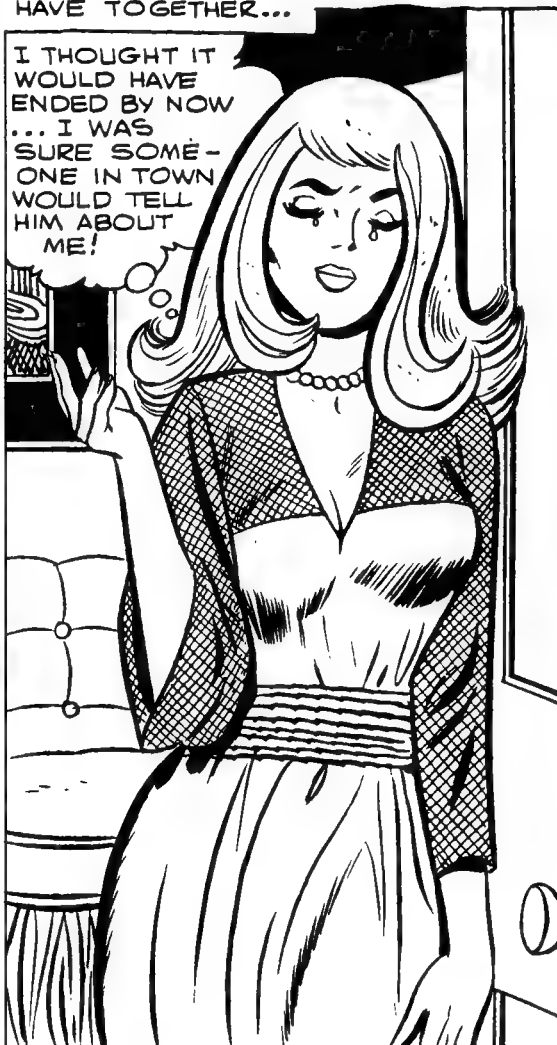


I BROUGHT YOU THESE... HEY, ARE YOU CRYING?  
CRYING? N-NO ... I MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN SOMETHING IN MY EYE!

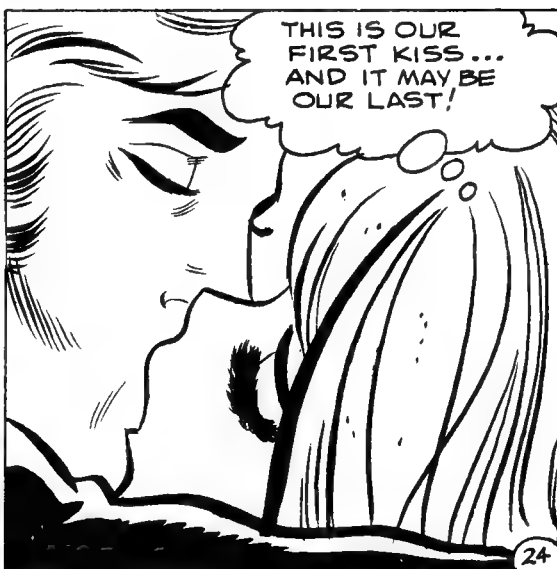


YOU'RE TOO BEAUTIFUL FOR TEARS, JESSICA... YOU'RE THE LOVELIEST GIRL I'VE EVER KNOWN!

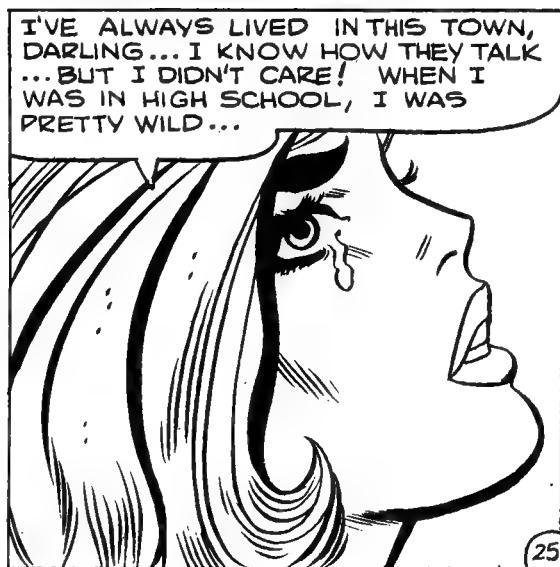
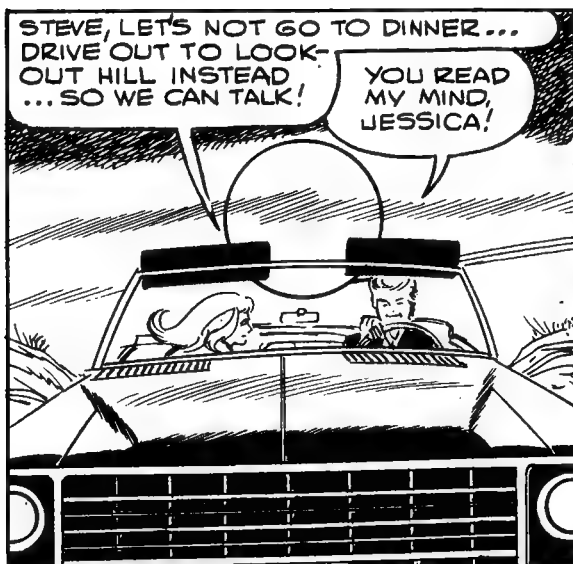
I BOUGHT A NEW DRESS... DRESSED WITH SPECIAL CARE... FOR THIS WOULD BE THE LAST NIGHT WE'D HAVE TOGETHER...




I THOUGHT IT WOULD HAVE ENDED BY NOW ... I WAS SURE SOME-ONE IN TOWN WOULD TELL HIM ABOUT ME!



THIS IS OUR FIRST KISS... AND IT MAY BE OUR LAST!





...AND THE PARTIES WERE NEVER  
THE WILD ORGIES THE GOSSIPS  
LATER MADE THEM OUT TO BE!  
WE WERE YOUNG...WE DIDN'T  
CARE WHAT PEOPLE THOUGHT...  
BUT THEY NEVER FORGOT...AND  
THEY'D CALL ANY MAN A FOOL  
WHO...

STOP  
TORTUR-  
ING YOUR-  
SELF,  
DARLING...

AL DISKIN  
TOLD ME ABOUT  
YOU AND M.R.E. SAID  
YOU'RE A VERY FINE  
GIRL... YOU'D BE  
AMAZED AT HOW MANY  
PEOPLE IN TOWN KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE REALLY  
LIKE, SWEETHEART!

AFTER WE'RE  
MARRIED,  
DARLING, WE WON'T  
CARE WHAT THE  
GOSSIPS, SAY!

M-MARRIED? OH,  
STEVE... I LOVE YOU  
SO!

**END**



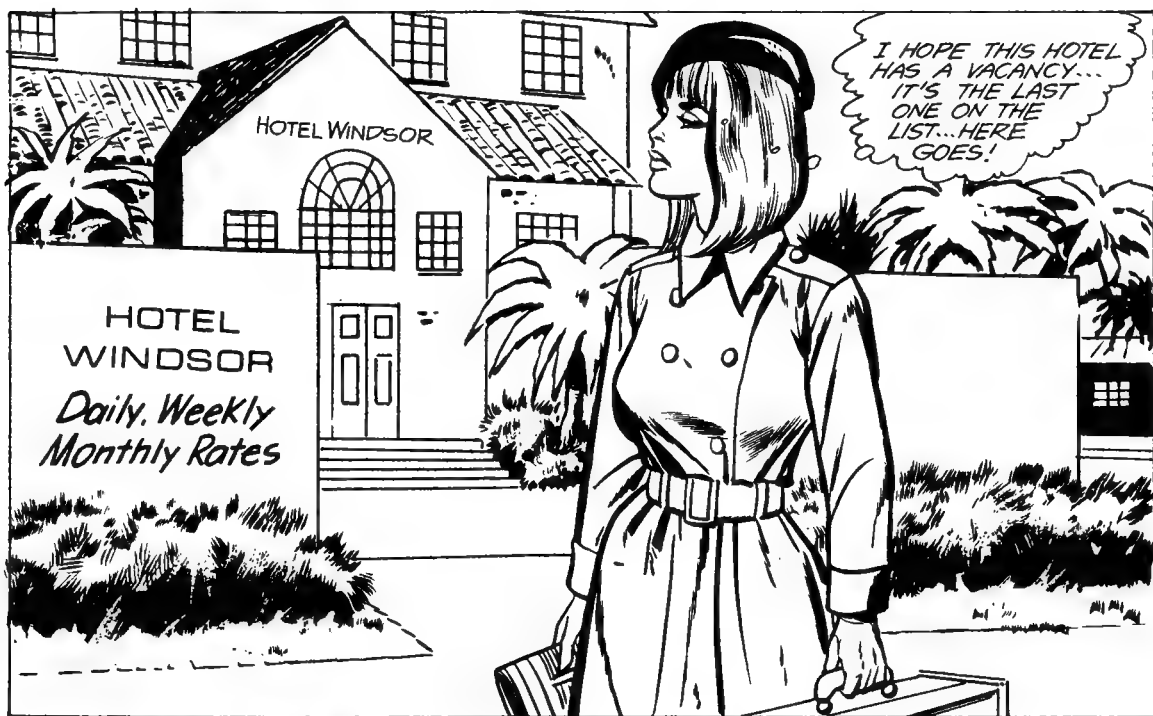


MY NAME IS GROVER... MRS. Z GROVER... THE Z AND THIS HOTEL ARE ALL I HAVE LEFT TO REMIND ME OF 40 YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS ZELDA RONTINO 'DARLING OF THE SILENT, SILVER SCREEN'... I'VE SEEN IT ALL, THE DREAMS COME TRUE... THE HEARTBREAK... THE WINNERS... THE LOSERS...! THIS IS THE STORY OF THREE GIRLS, WHO LIKE HUNDREDS BEFORE THEM, STOPPED HERE ON THEIR BITTER QUEST OF FAME... THIS IS THE STORY OF...

# Three Roads to Stardom!

Part One...  
The Girls in 414

B-307

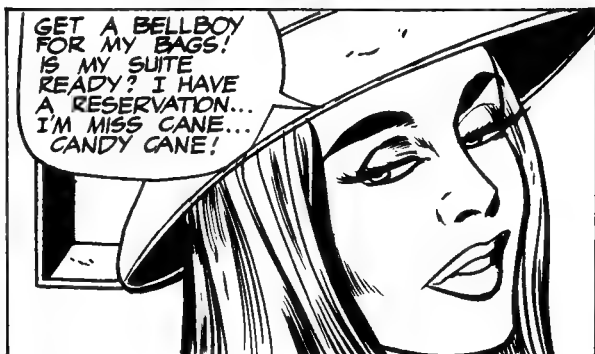


I HOPE THIS HOTEL HAS A VACANCY... IT'S THE LAST ONE ON THE LIST... HERE GOES!



HELLO... DO YOU HAVE A SINGLE... BY THE WEEK?

ALL GONE, HONEY... BUT YOU CAN HAVE 414! THAT'S A 3-BEDROOM SUITE THAT I RENT TO 3 GALS AT A TIME TO SHARE. IT'S BETTER THAN A SINGLE AND IT COMES TO LESS WHEN YOU SPLIT THE RATE 3 WAYS...









# PART TWO... THE SPIDER AND THE FLY...



CANDY HAD EXPENSE MONEY IN HER PURSE AND A SCREEN TEST IN HER FUTURE... JUNE HAD A BIT PART AND A TINY CONTRACT... ONLY LAURA HAD NO LEADS, PLANS OR ANYTHING ELSE BUT HOPE. THE NEXT MORNING SHE CAME TO SEE ME!



MRS. GROVER.  
MAY I TALK  
TO YOU...  
PLEASE?

OF COURSE  
CHILD! WHAT  
IS IT?



JUNE HARDING,  
MY ROOMMATE TOLD  
ME YOU'VE BEEN  
HERE FOR YEARS  
... THAT YOU WERE  
A FAMOUS STAR  
ONCE AND...  
WELL, I THOUGHT  
I MIGHT ASK  
YOUR  
ADVICE!



ANY TIME. NOW  
COME, SIT DOWN!  
I'LL TELL YOU  
ANYTHING I CAN!  
WHAT'S YOUR  
PROBLEM?



I WAS A HIGH-  
FASHION MODEL  
IN NEW YORK.  
THIS ARTIST  
FRIEND AND I  
WERE ENGAGED.  
THEN HE... I...  
WE BROKE UP  
AND I CAME  
HERE!



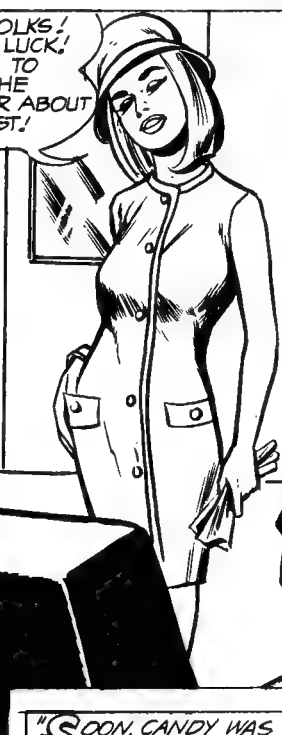
I WANT TO BE  
AN ACTRESS BUT  
I DON'T KNOW  
WHERE TO  
BEGIN!

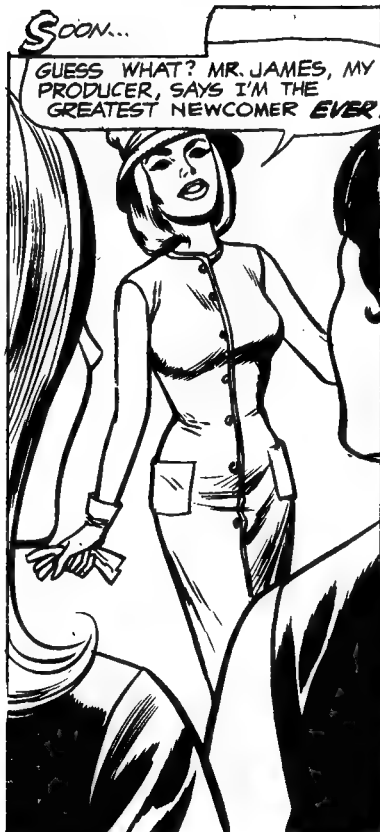
I SEE!



I THINK YOU HAD  
BETTER BEGIN BY  
ASKING YOURSELF  
WHY YOU'RE  
HERE... TO BE AN  
ACTRESS OR TO  
FORGET A  
BROKEN  
ROMANCE!

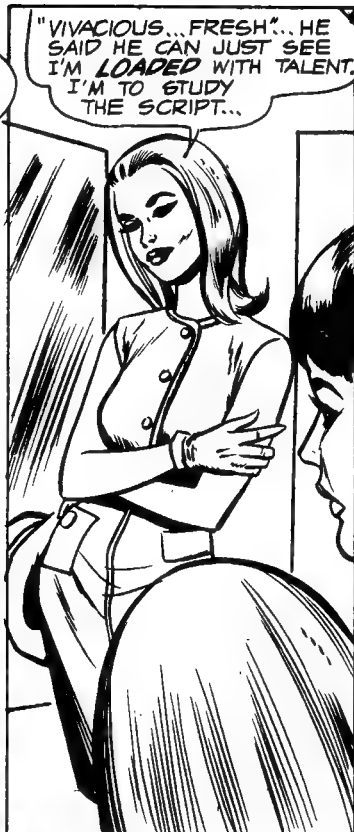
HOTEL WINDSOR





SOON...

GUESS WHAT? MR. JAMES, MY PRODUCER, SAYS I'M THE GREATEST NEWCOMER *EVER!*



"VIVACIOUS... FRESH"... HE SAID HE CAN JUST SEE I'M *LOADED* WITH TALENT. I'M TO STUDY THE SCRIPT...



AND I'M INVITED TO A BIG PARTY AT HIS ESTATE THIS WEEK END... I'M *IN!* GOLLY, GOSH-ALL!



ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD GO?

AND ARE *YOU* FOR REAL?

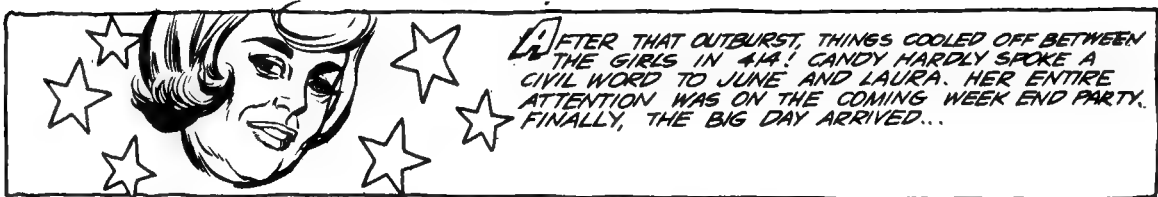


... SHOULD I GO?... YOU BET YOUR EYELASHES, *BABY!* THIS LI'L OL' GAL WOULDN'T MISS THAT BREAK FOR ANYTHING!

I THINK IT'S A MISTAKE!



OF ALL THE... YOU THINK... WHO ASKED YOU? EITHER OF YOU! FROM NOW ON, JUST MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS... YOU'RE JUST... *JEALOUS!*



AFTER THAT OUTBURST, THINGS COOLED OFF BETWEEN THE GIRLS IN #14! CANDY HARDLY SPOKE A CIVIL WORD TO JUNE AND LAURA. HER ENTIRE ATTENTION WAS ON THE COMING WEEK END PARTY. FINALLY, THE BIG DAY ARRIVED...



I'M MR. JAMES CHAUFFEUR, MAM! I'M TO MEET A MISS CANE!

SO I'VE HEARD... I'LL CALL HER!



THAT LITTLE GIRL IS HEADED FOR NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!



I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE, MISS CANE... THIS YOUR FIRST TIME AT THE ESTATE... SURE YOU WANT TO GO?



WHAT KIND OF A CHAUFFEUR ARE YOU, ANYWAY? I DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS! NOW DRIVE ON OR I'LL REPORT YOU TO MR. JAMES!



HERE YOU ARE, DARLING! THIS SHALL BE A WEEK END YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!

WELL, GOOSSH ALL!

End of Part II

# PART THREE

## ZELDA THE CUPID

AFTER CANDY DROVE OFF IN HER CHARIOT I DROPPED IN TO SEE JUNE AND LAURA... THEY WERE UPSET OVER CANDY'S BEHAVIOR AND WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE! SO, I DECIDED TO CHEER THEM UP..



HELLO, DANNY... THIS IS YOUR AUNT ZELDA! COME OVER, WILL YOU? I NEED YOUR HELP... FINE, SIX O'CLOCK IS PERFECT!



AUNT ZELDA, MY FAVORITE HUMAN... WHAT'S THE BIG TROUBLE?

NOT SO BIG... ABOUT 105 POUNDS... AND HER NAME IS JUNE!



"I TOLD DAN ALL ABOUT JUNE AND LAURA AND THEIR LONELY LITTLE LIVES..."

OF COURSE I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM BUT I'M NOT AN ESCORT BUREAU!



"JUST THEN, CUPID TOOK A HAND!"



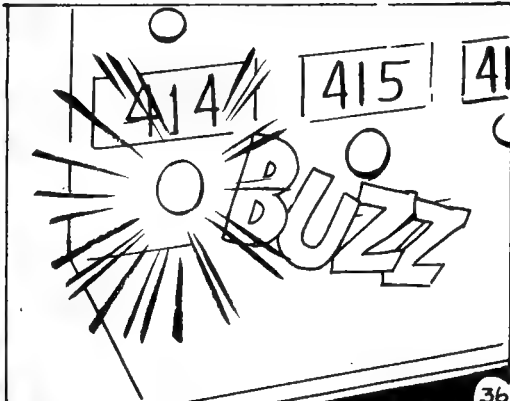
WELL, WHO IS THAT DOLL?

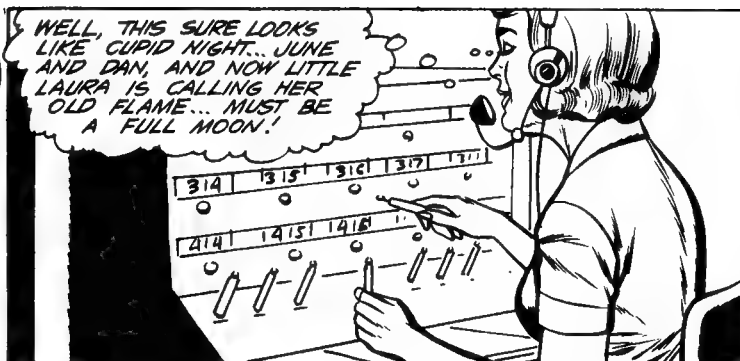
THAT, YOU IDIOT, IS JUNE!

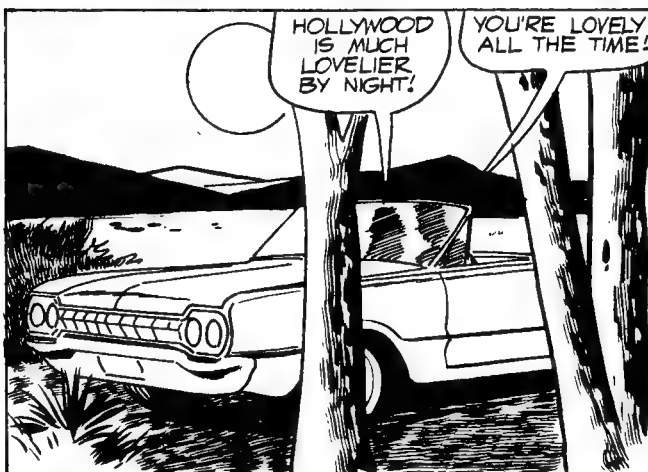




"AS THEY LEFT, I HAD A GOOD FEELING  
THAT THEY WOULD HAVE MANY DINNERS  
TOGETHER... JUST THEN, THE SWITCHBOARD  
INTERRUPTED MY HAPPY THOUGHTS..."







"LAURA AND I WERE HAVING A NIGHTCAP OF INSTANT COFFEE WHEN THEY RETURNED..."

JUNE, I MUST TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED!



NEV, MY GUY IS FLYING OUT TO SEE ME... I SWALLOWED MY PRIDE, CALLED HIM... AND, OH JUNE, I'M SO HAPPY!



"NOT A BAD NIGHT AT THAT! TWO OF THE GIRLS IN 414 WERE HAPPY... BUT I FELT A SHADOW HANGING OVER ME... WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO THE THIRD GIRL?"



"FOURS LATER, AFTER WE HAD ALL GONE TO BED, JUNE WAS AWAKENED BY A STRANGE SOUND..."

WHAT WAS THAT NOISE? SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM THE HALL...



"SHE WENT TO THE DOOR AND PEEKED OUT, NEVER GUESSING WHAT SHE WAS ABOUT TO SEE..."

GOOD LORD, NO... CANDY!



End of Part III





"MR. JAMES SHOWED ME THE GARDENS AND WHAT WITH THE MUSIC, THE MOONLIGHT AND ALL..."



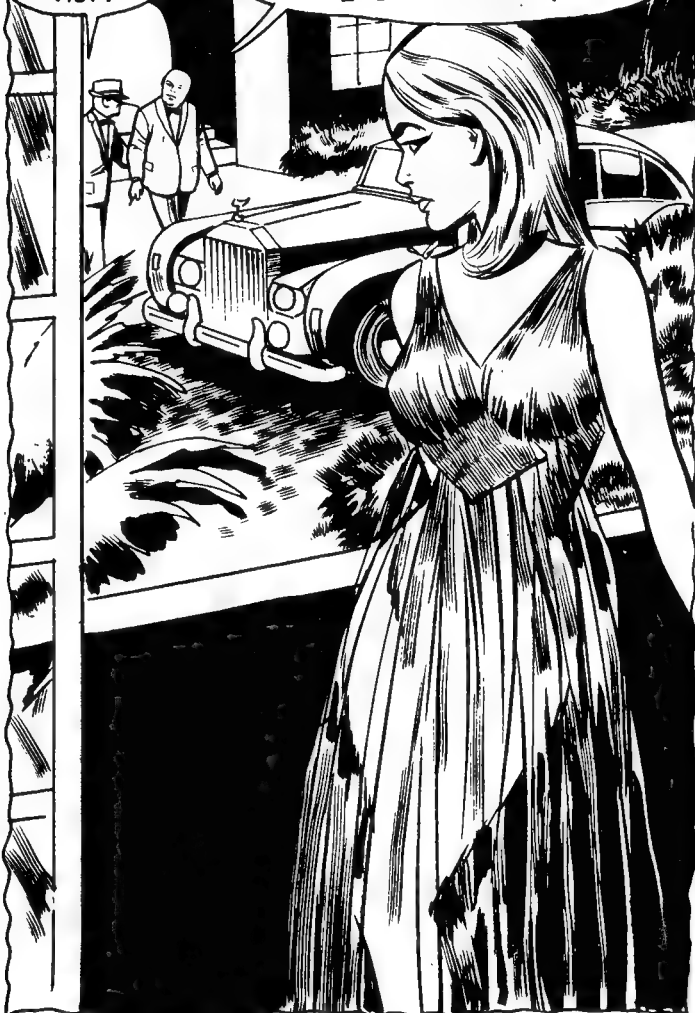
"FINALLY IT GOT TO BE PRETTY LATE AND I WENT UP TO MY ROOM... I FIGURED THE OTHER GUESTS WOULD ALSO BE RETIRING..."



"AFTER I GOT READY FOR BED, I SHUT THE LIGHTS AND STEPPED OUT ON THE BALCONY FOR ONE LAST LOOK AT THE MOON... MR. JAMES WAS SAYING GOOD-NIGHT TO A FRIEND... I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING..."

SHE'S CUTE, YOU DEVIL-CAN SHE ACT?

THAT IDIOT! HOW CAN SHE ACT WHEN SHE'S BRAINLESS? SHE'S SO DUMB SHE BELIEVED YOU'RE ALL STAYING OVER!



THAT'S A RIOT! HA HA! WELL, GREAT PARTY, OLD MAN!

GOOD NIGHT, AUSTON!



ALL THE GUESTS ARE GONE! I'M ALONE WITH HIM IN THIS HOUSE!





"I GUESS I PANICKED... ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS TO GET AWAY..."



"AS I RAN, I COULD HEAR HIM CALLING AFTER ME..."

COME BACK... YOU FOOL... COME BACK...



"I LOST ALL TRACK OF TIME... AT LAST I FELL, TOO TIRED TO GO ON..."

"SUDDENLY, THE BLINDING HEADLIGHTS OF A CAR CAME CHARGING AT ME... I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO RUN ME DOWN OR DRAG ME BACK! IT WAS TERRIBLE!"



WHAT HAPPENED THEN?

WHAT DID HE DO?



IT WASN'T HIM AT ALL, IT WAS THE CHAUFFEUR! HE HAD BEEN ON THE LOOKOUT FOR TROUBLE... HE HELPED ME HOME!



WELL, THANK GOODNESS!

YES, AT LEAST NOTHING HAPPENED!



**NOTHING HAPPENED!** YOU SIMPLE-MINDED FOOLS! WHAT DO YOU THINK MR. JAMES WILL DO ABOUT MY SCREEN-TEST NOW?



IS THAT ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT... YOUR BIG-DEAL CAREER? SOMEDAY YOU'LL CHOKE ON IT!

DON'T SAY ANYMORE... CANDY'S UPSET-SHE'S HAD A BAD TIME!



AS FAR AS YOUR TEST IS CONCERNED, I MET SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP... BUT NOW, TO SLEEP!



*"NEXT MORNING THE GALS TOLD ME ABOUT CANDY'S EXPERIENCE... I CALLED DAN, THAT EVENING HE ARRIVED WITH IMPORTANT NEWS..."*

GREAT NEWS! THE STUDIO DISMISSED MR. JAMES! YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE NEW MAN IN CHARGE OF "HEARTBREAK"!

NOW I'LL SHOW YOU ALL HOW I CAN ACT!

# PART FIVE

## The Falling Star



"TWO WEEKS WENT BY... LAURA'S FRIEND WOULD BE ARRIVING ANY DAY. CANDY WAS DRIVING ME INSANE MEMORIZING THE LINES FOR HER TEST... AND JUNE WAS FINISHING HER PICTURE AND HER CONTRACT..."



OVER HERE, JUNE!



THIS IS THE WIND-UP! NOW THAT YOUR PICTURE IS FINISHED, I GUESS YOU'LL BE LEAVING...



JUNE, YOU MUSTN'T GO BACK EAST... I NEED YOU... I LOVE YOU!



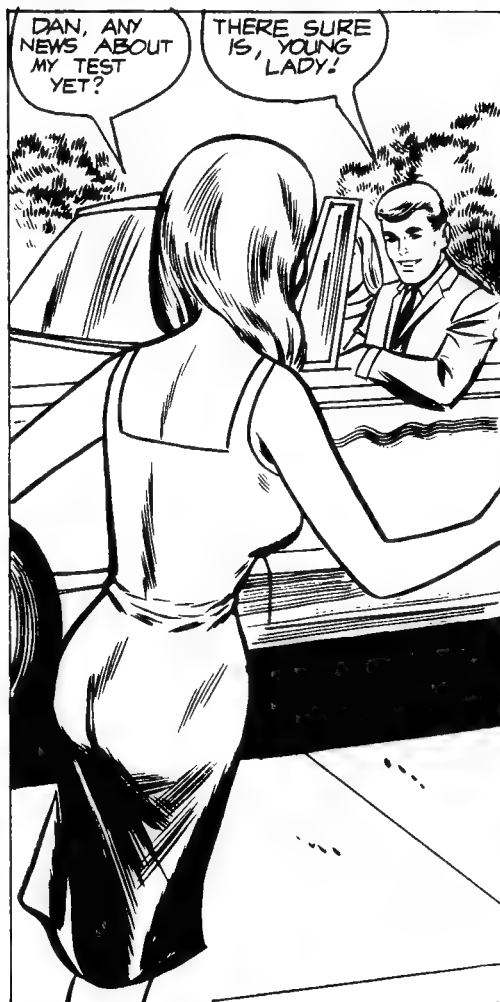
DAN, I LOVE YOU, TOO... AND I'M NOT LEAVING HOLLYWOOD!



YOU DIDN'T GIVE ME A CHANCE TO TELL YOU... I'M SIGNING A NEW CONTRACT! I'M GETTING THE SECOND LEAD IN A NEW FILM WHICH STARTS SHOOTING IN A FEW WEEKS!



THAT'S MARVELOUS! NOW I'LL HAVE TIME TO CONVINCE YOU THAT YOUR STARRING ROLE SHOULD BE AS *MY WIFE!*



DAN, ANY NEWS ABOUT MY TEST YET?

THERE SURE IS, YOUNG LADY!



REPORT TO THE FRONT GATE TOMORROW MORNING AT 8:00 AM... **SHARP!**



**WELL, GOSH ALL!!!** NOW I'LL SHOW THEM ALL! JUNE, I WANT YOU TO BE THERE... I WANT TO SHOW YOU HOW I WOW 'EM!



**N**EXT DAY..  
8:00 A.M.

YOU'VE STUDIED YOUR  
LINES AND THE DIRECTOR  
WILL HELP YOU ALONG,  
SO THERE'S NOTHING  
TO WORRY ABOUT!

WORRY? WHY  
SHOULD I  
WORRY? I'LL  
WOW 'EM!



NOW CANDY, THE HEROINE  
HAS JUST LEARNED THAT  
SHE'S DYING AND IS  
GOING TO ATTEMPT  
SUICIDE... JUST TRY TO...

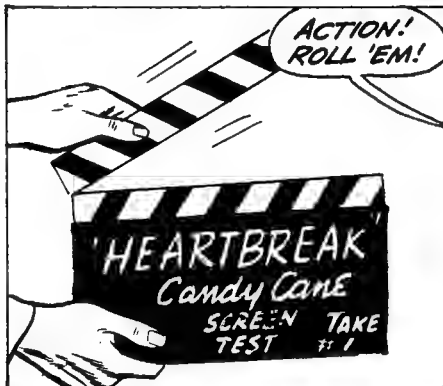
I KNOW, I KNOW..  
I'VE GOT IT ALL  
FIGURED OUT...  
YOU'LL SEE!



OK! READY  
ON THE SET!

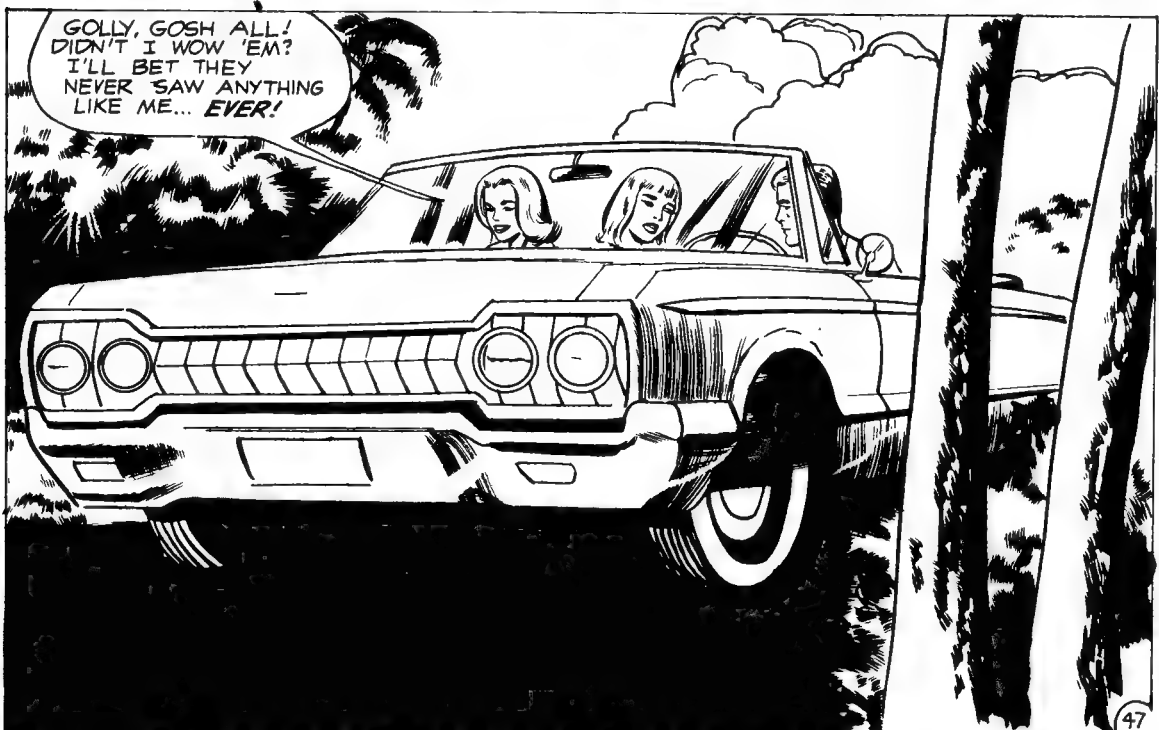
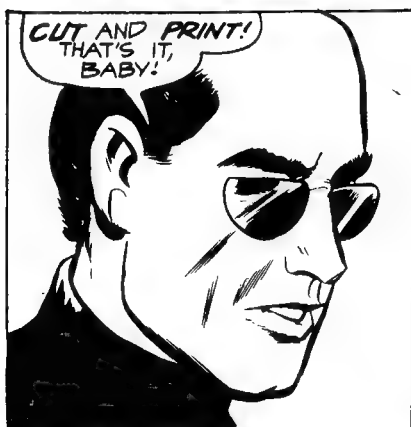


ACTION!  
ROLL 'EM!



IT'S THE POLICE...  
GO AWAY! LEAVE  
ME ALONE!







"I WAS GRATEFUL FOR JUNE'S INTERRUPTION AS SHE PURPOSELY CHANGED THE SUBJECT..."



# PART SIX... DEAD END!

"WHATEVER TROUBLE LAURA AND NEVILLE HAD IN NEW YORK WAS FORGOTTEN IN HOLLYWOOD. THEY ANNOUNCED THEIR ENGAGEMENT AND THREW A PARTY TO CELEBRATE THEIR FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE..."



I'M THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD! I ONLY HOPE THAT YOU AND DAN CAN BE AS HAPPY AS WE ARE! AND I KNOW THAT CANDY WILL FIND HAPPINESS!



DID I SAY SOMETHING? WHAT'S WRONG? IT'S CANDY, ISN'T IT?



YES... SHE FAILED HER SCREEN TEST!



DOES SHE KNOW?

WE CAN'T FIGURE A WAY TO BREAK IT TO HER--YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO HER!

"I WANTED A BREATH OF AIR AND HAPPENED TO STEP OUT ON THE VERANDA JUST WHEN..."



CANDY! WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

WHY NOT? YOU'RE A GOOD-LOOKING MAN, MORE MY TYPE THAN LAURA'S!



I THOUGHT YOU WERE HER FRIEND! PLEASE DON'T BOTHER EITHER OF US AGAIN!

WELL, OF ALL THE NERVE! WAIT A MINUTE!



STOP IT, CHILD! YOU'VE BEEN NOTHING BUT TROUBLE SINCE YOU ARRIVED! NOW STOP BEING A SELFISH, SPOILED BABY AND START ACTING LIKE A WOMAN!



BEFORE YOU GET ANYWHERE IN THIS TOWN, YOU'LL HAVE TO GROW UP, FIRST!



I'LL OWN THIS TOWN BEFORE I'M THROUGH! WAIT TILL MY TEST IS SCREENED... WAIT TILL THE STUDIO SEES ME!

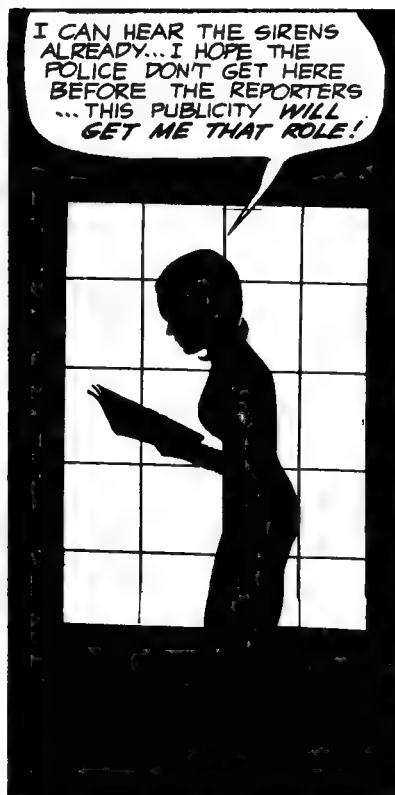
CANDY, THEY HAVE... IT DIDN'T WORK OUT... WHY NOT FORGET IT AND GO HOME?

















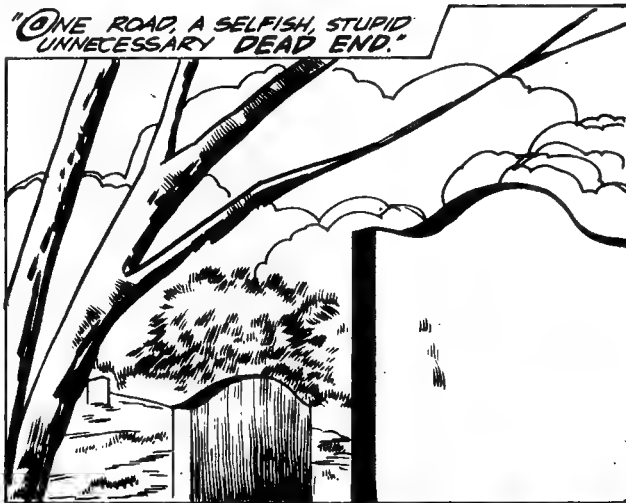
"THERE HAD BEEN NOISE... TRAFFIC SOUNDS, HORNS, WHEELS... PEOPLE SOUNDS, LAUGHS, WHISPERS, SHOUTS... THEN SHE FELL AND THE WORLD, FOR ONE BRIEF MOMENT WAS TOTALLY SILENT IN A TRIBUTE TO FOLLY!"



"AND THAT IS THE STORY OF THREE ROADS TO STARDOM... ONE ROAD WAS A CIRCLE, A DETOUR FROM LOVE... TO... LOVE."



"ONE ROAD, A SELFISH, STUPID UNNECESSARY DEAD END."



"BUT THE THIRD ROAD WAS AN EXPRESSWAY TO THE STARS!"



# FAST and FURIOUS

HE HAD ME THIS TIME... I'D SEEN THIS YOUNG HIGH-WAY PATROLMAN HALF A DOZEN TIMES (HE WAS BETTER LOOKING THAN MOST) BUT EACH TIME I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO SLOW DOWN BEFORE HE COULD PROVE I WAS SPEEDING AND GIVE ME A TICKET! BUT, NOW... I'D BEEN DRIVING AT 75 MPH AND HE'D TAILED ME FOR HALF A MILE BEFORE I'D SPOTTED HIS CAR! ALL I COULD DO WAS SMILE SWEETLY AND TURN ON THE CHARM...

WAS I **REALLY** GOING THAT FAST, SERGEANT?

D-5643

I'M PATROLMAN O'ROURKE, MISS... AND YOU **ALWAYS** DRIVE THAT FAST! I'D HATE TO SEE A PRETTY LADY LIKE YOU WRAPPED AROUND A TREE!

YOU THINK I'M PRETTY, MR. O'ROURKE? I THINK YOU'RE...

BETTER SAVE IT UNTIL I FINISH WRITING THE SPEEDING TICKET, MISS!

IN FRIGID SILENCE, I HANDED O'ROURKE MY DRIVER'S LICENSE AND CAR REGISTRATION...

I WAS **STUPID** TO BE NICE TO HIM... HE'S A RAT FINK!

I KNOW YOU THINK I'M A RAT FINK, MISS FARREL... BUT I ONLY GAVE YOU A WARNING TICKET! BELIEVE ME, IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

YOU DID YOUR DUTY, OFFICER... I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOUR SERMONS TOO, DO I?

I ALREADY HAD A TICKET FOR PASSING A STOP SIGN... ONE MORE VIOLATION AND MY LICENSE WILL BE SUSPENDED!

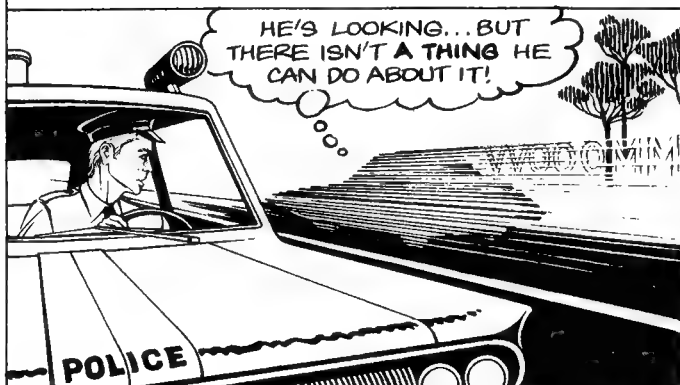
I DIDN'T DRIVE MUCH MORE SLOWLY... BUT I **DID** KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE OUT FOR THE FUZZ!

THERE HE IS... I KNEW HE'D BE THERE!

SPEED  
LIMIT  
**45**

HE'LL BE HEADING FOR THE BARRACKS IN FIFTEEN MINUTES... I'LL BE COMING THE OTHER WAY... HE'LL **NEVER** GET TURNED AROUND IN TIME TO GIVE ME A TICKET!

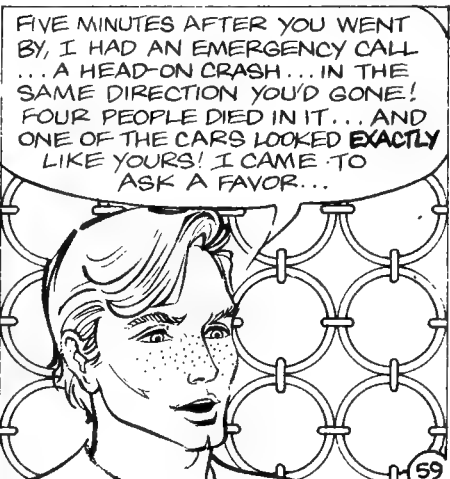
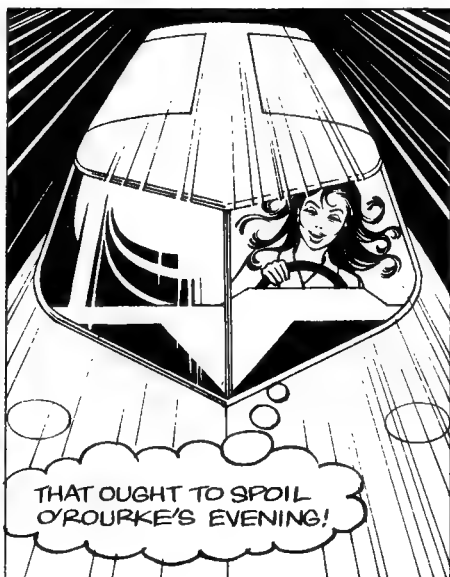
I ONLY HAD A FEW THINGS TO SHOP FOR...AND COMING BACK, THERE WASN'T MUCH TRAFFIC SO I FLOORED THE GAS PEDAL!



I SHARED A GARDEN APARTMENT WITH A GIRL WHO WORKED FOR THE SAME COMPANY I DID! WHEN THE DOORBELL RANG LATER, I WENT TO ANSWER IT, ASSUMING IT WAS JANET'S BOY FRIEND...



IF THIS IS A **SOCIAL** CALL, O'ROURKE, FORGET IT! I...





WHY DON'T YOU INVITE MR. O'ROURKE IN, JUDY?

BUT HE'S A ...VERY WELL. PLEASE COME IN, MR. O'ROURKE!



I'M JANET LANE...I EAVESDROPPED AND HEARD JUDY MENTION YOUR NAME ...AND I'M GLAD YOU CAUGHT HER SPEEDING.

JUDY ISN'T, MISS LANE, BUT...SHE SHOULD BE!



ALL RIGHT, O'ROURKE, I GET THE MESSAGE! I'M A BAD GIRL AND YOU'RE TRYING TO SAVE ME BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

I'M GLAD YOU UNDERSTAND MY MOTIVES, MISS FARREL!



WE'RE GOING TO A DRIVE-IN FOR HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, FRIED CLAMS AND STUFF! WHY DON'T YOU TWO COME ALONG?

IT SOUNDS GREAT TO ME! HOW ABOUT IT, MISS FARREL?

NICK O'ROURKE GOT ALONG GREAT WITH JANET AND ED DI GIORGI...



O'ROURKE IS SORT OF SAD DEEP DOWN...BUT HE'S MAKING A BIG EFFORT TO BE GOOD COMPANY! I WONDER WHY HE'S SAD...

...THERE'S A GOOD COMEDY AT CINEMA 1! I COULD USE A LAUGH!



IT WAS A PLEASANT EVENING... I DATED TWO OR THREE DIFFERENT MEN... BUT NICK O'ROURKE WAS NICER THAN ANY OF THEM!

HE'S REALLY SWEET...

I... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE... UH, GOOD NIGHT!

OH, STOP HINTING AROUND, NICK...

GOOD NIGHT, JUDY... AND, REMEMBER... DON'T GO TOO FAST!

I KNEW IT WAS TRUE... I DROVE TOO FAST... I ALWAYS HAD... IT WAS A HABIT WITH ME! A FEW MORNINGS LATER...

I'M GOING TO BE LATE AT THE OFFICE!

OH, NICK... STOP BUGGING ME ABOUT THAT!

OH, NO!!

RRRRR RRRRR RRRR

POLICE



YOU'RE NOT REALLY SERIOUS, NICK...  
I MEAN WE'LL PROBABLY WANT TO  
GO OUT AGAIN AND...

...AND I'D LIKE YOU  
TO BE IN ONE PIECE!

RATS! I THOUGHT  
O'ROURKE WOULD TURN  
INTO A HUMAN BEING AFTER  
THE OTHER NIGHT!

NICK O'ROURKE, DON'T  
YOU **DARE** WRITE THAT  
TICKET! IT'LL MEAN MY  
LICENSE WILL BE SUSPENDED  
FOR AT LEAST  
SIX MONTHS!

I KNOW,  
JUDY...

...BUT IF YOU DON'T LEARN YOUR LESSON NOW, YOU'LL  
KILL YOURSELF AND MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE SOME DAY!

YOU MAKE ME SICK,  
YOU RAT FINK!

NOW, GO SLOW... IF  
YOU'VE GOT THREE MOVING  
VIOLATIONS AS I THINK YOU HAVE,  
YOU'LL RECEIVE NOTICE IN THE MAIL  
IN A FEW DAYS THAT YOUR LICENSE  
IS SUSPENDED!

THANKS,  
O'ROURKE...

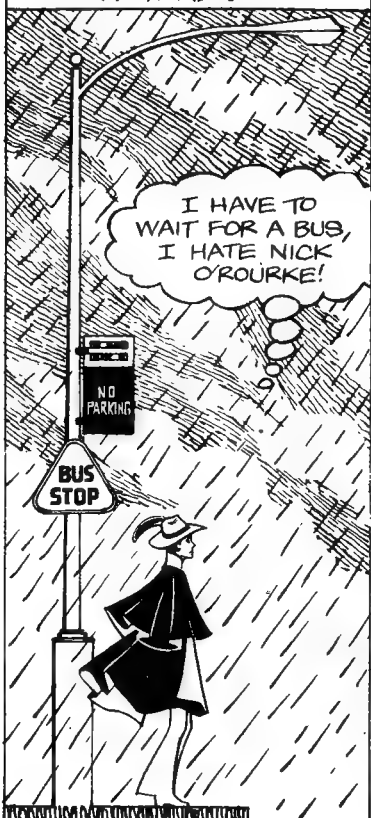
...AND DON'T  
EVER SPEAK TO  
ME AGAIN!

I WAS LATE TO WORK...AND THOROUGHLY MISERABLE! I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHY UNTIL THAT NIGHT WHEN JANET...

YOU KNOW THE WORST PART OF GETTING THAT TICKET, JUDY?

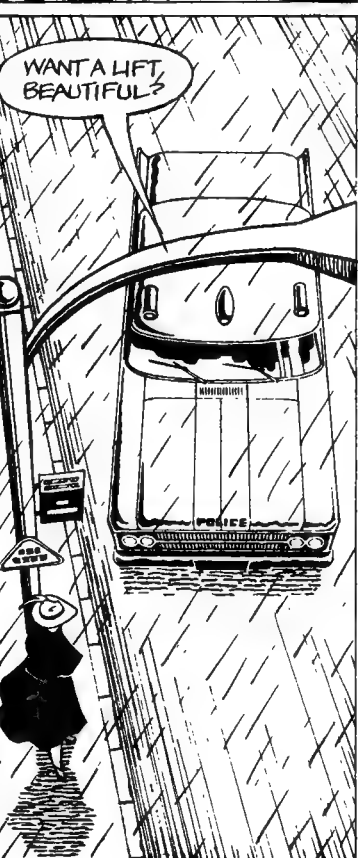


I WAS LOST WITHOUT MY CAR... JAN GOT ME TO THE OFFICE IN THE MORNING BUT SHE WORKED LATE SOME EVENINGS AND COULDN'T TAKE ME HOME SO...



WHAT REALLY HURTS IS YOU'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE NICK O'ROURKE AGAIN...AND HE'S THE NICEST MAN YOU EVER DATED!

DO ME A FAVOR, JANET...



... AND KEEP YOUR BIG MOUTH SHUT!

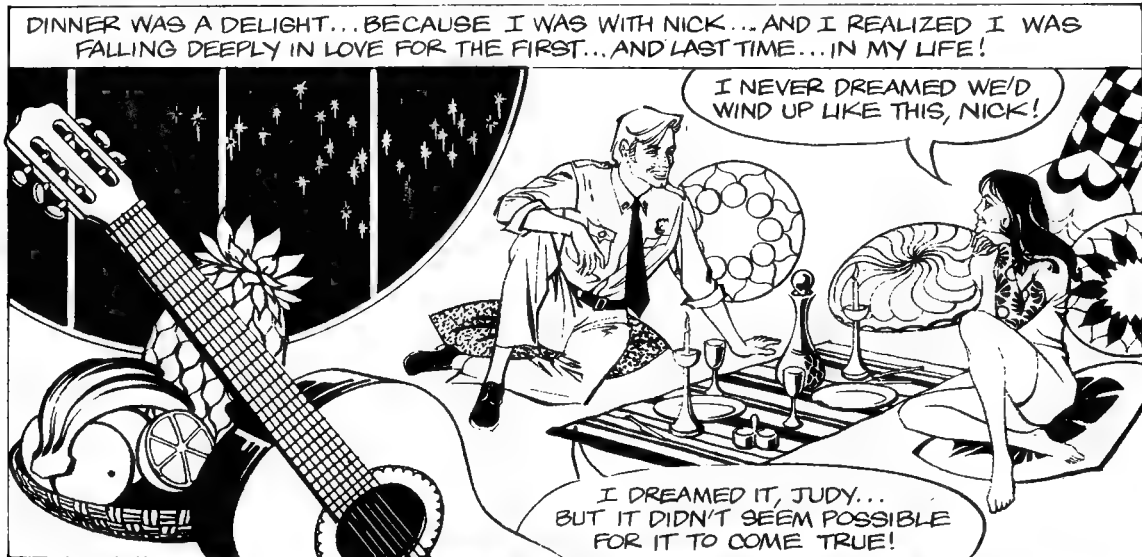


GET IN, JUDY... I'M TRULY SORRY IT HAPPENED THIS WAY!

I KNOW YOU ARE... BUT THAT DOESN'T HELP!







THE GIRL WAS DRIVING WEST IN NEW MEXICO, BEGINNING A MONTH-LONG VACATION...DELIGHTED WITH HER NEW INDEPENDENCE (SHE'D BEEN LIVING WITH HER FAMILY UNTIL SHE GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE AND THEN GOTTEN A JOB WITH A ST. LOUIS INSURANCE COMPANY), DELIGHTED WITH HER NEW CAR, AND DETERMINED TO SEE **EVERYTHING** ON HER WAY TO CALIFORNIA!

I'VE JUST GOT TO GET PICTURES OF THIS FANTASTIC SCENERY!

I'LL FIND A HILL OFF THE MAIN HIGHWAY...



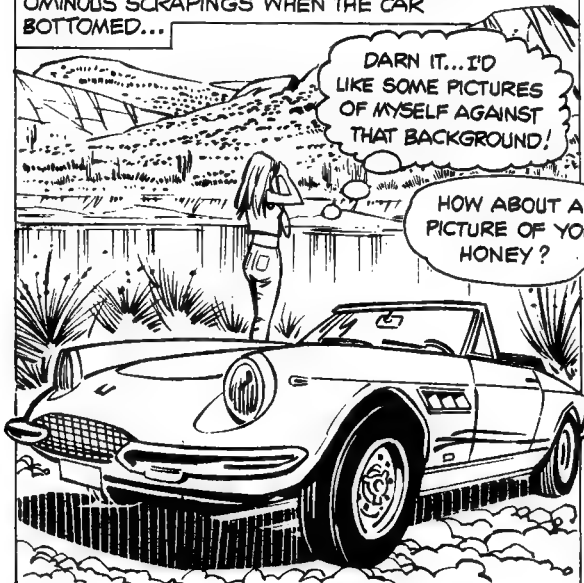
# TRAIL TO LOVE

SO FELICIA HURD TOOK A SIDE ROAD LEADING ACROSS GULLIES AND LEDGES, IGNORING THE OMINOUS SCRAPINGS WHEN THE CAR BOTTOMED...

DARN IT...I'D LIKE SOME PICTURES OF MYSELF AGAINST THAT BACKGROUND!

HOW ABOUT A PICTURE OF YOU, HONEY?

YOU'RE THE NICEST SCENERY IN THE WHOLE STATE OF NEW MEXICO!



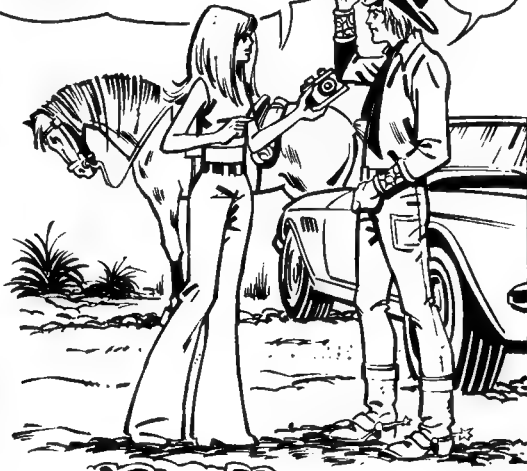


A COWBOY, FELICIA THOUGHT! EXACTLY  
WHAT SHE NEEDED!

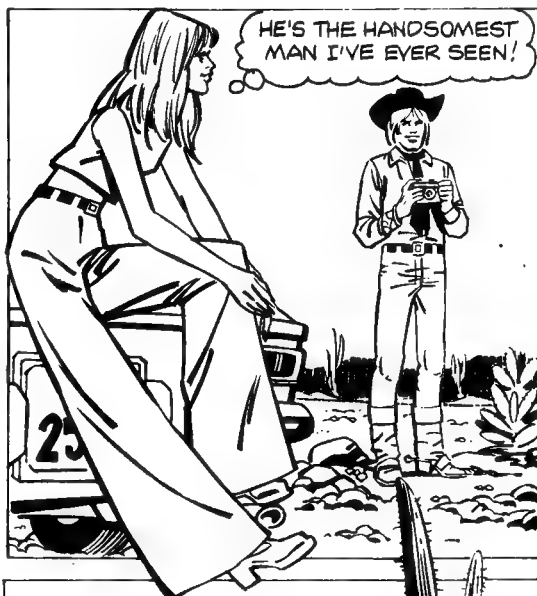


... AND WHEN YOU SEE THIS  
LITTLE DOT, YOU PRESS THIS  
DINGUS HERE. GOT IT ?

GOT  
IT!



HE'S THE HANDSOMEST  
MAN I'VE EVER SEEN!



YOU KNOW, SINCE THIS IS A  
WESTERN BACKGROUND, I  
SHOULD TAKE A PICTURE OF  
YOU ON MY HORSE!

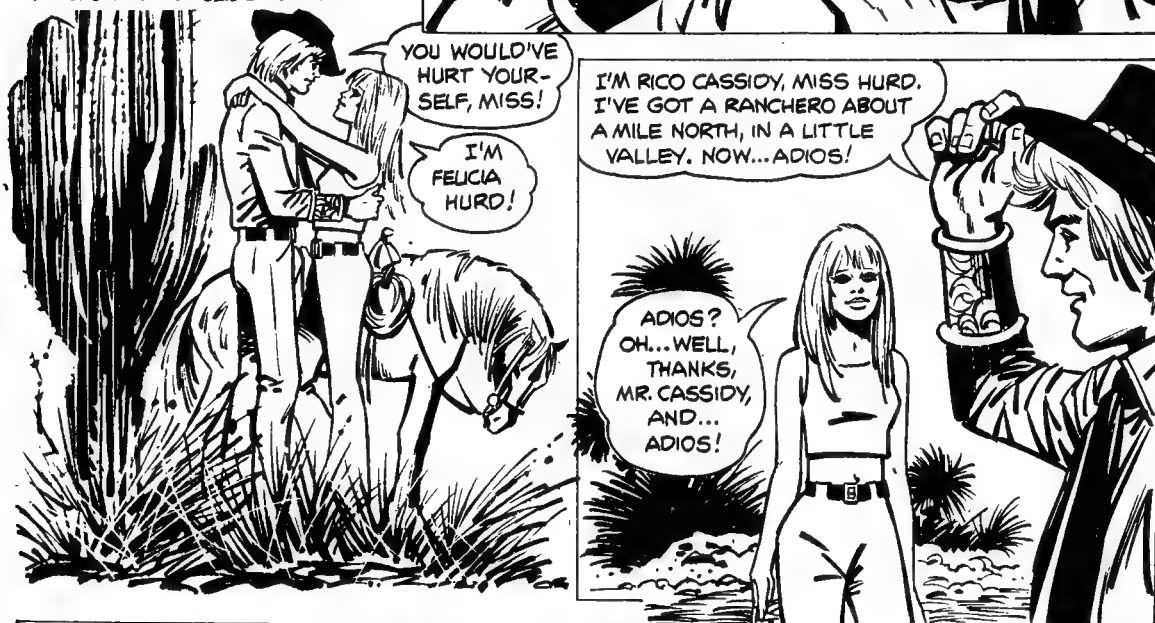
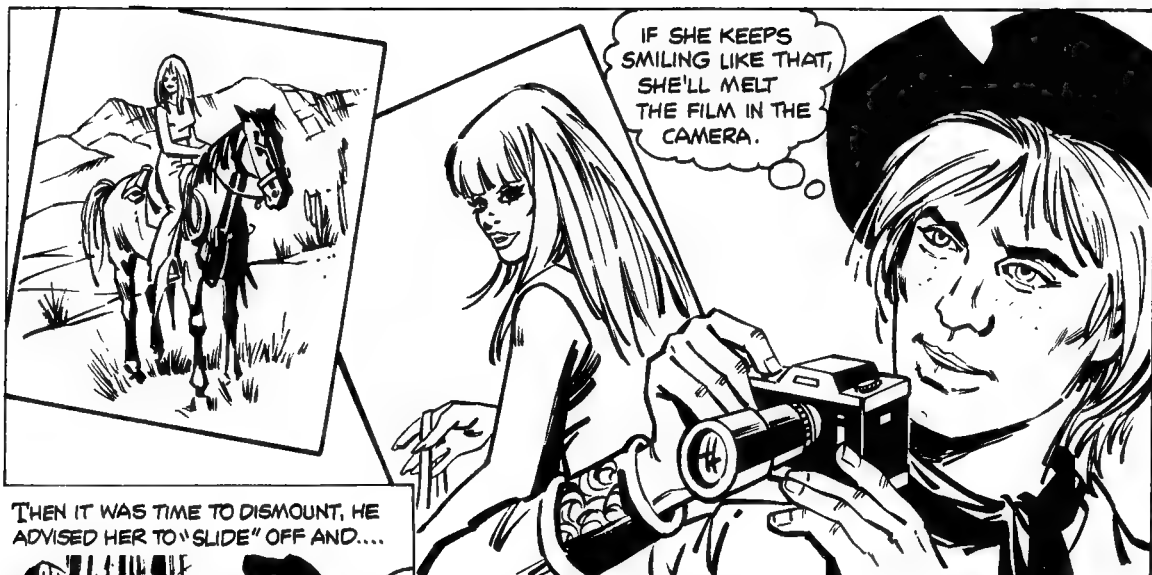
HE'S SO  
BIG...I COULD  
NEVER CLIMB  
UP THERE!

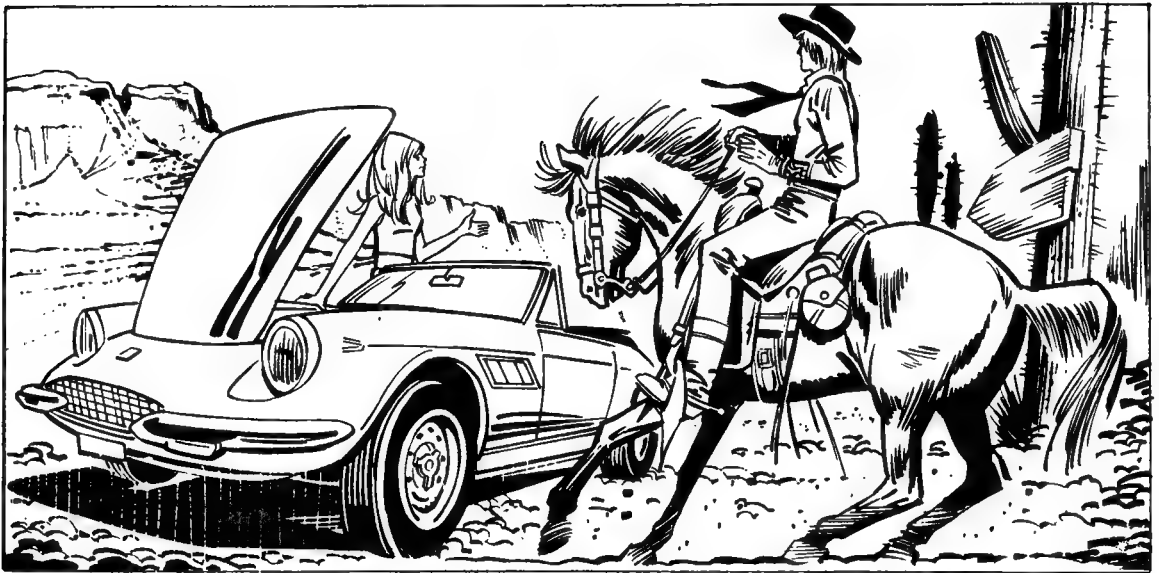


BUT RICO CASSIDY HAD AL-  
READY THOUGHT OF THAT!  
HE HELPED HER!

UP YOU  
GO!







WON'T START ?

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT. IT SPUTTERED AND RAN ABOUT TEN SECONDS THEN STOPPED! I'LL TRY TO START IT AGAIN!

IT'S NOT GETTING ANY GAS, FELICIA! I SMELLED GAS BEHIND THE CAR WHEN I RODE UP... I'LL TAKE A LOOK.

RRRROOORRR

A black and white comic panel showing a man on a horse leaning over the open door of a car. The car's license plate reads "-KY 2515". A speech bubble from the man says, "IT'S NOT GETTING ANY GAS, FELICIA! I SMELLED GAS BEHIND THE CAR WHEN I RODE UP... I'LL TAKE A LOOK." Another speech bubble from the woman in the car says, "I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT. IT SPUTTERED AND RAN ABOUT TEN SECONDS THEN STOPPED! I'LL TRY TO START IT AGAIN!". A third speech bubble from the man on the horse says, "WON'T START ?". The sound effect "RRRROOORRR" is written near the car.

YOU'VE GOT A BIG HOLE IN THE GAS TANK, FELICIA! YOU MUST'VE HIT A HIGH, SHARP ROCK IN THE ROAD!

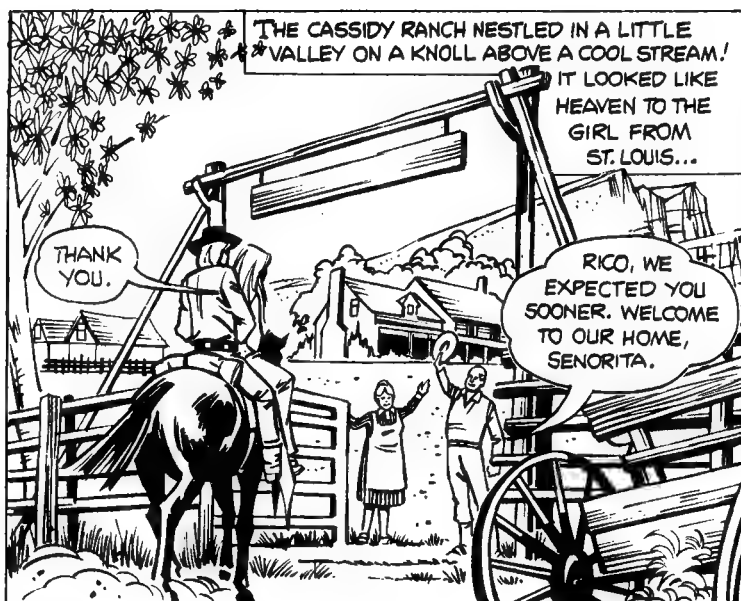
I BELIEVE I DID! WHAT CAN I DO ?

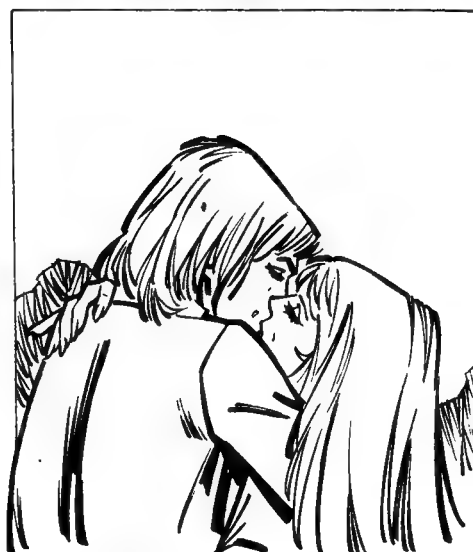
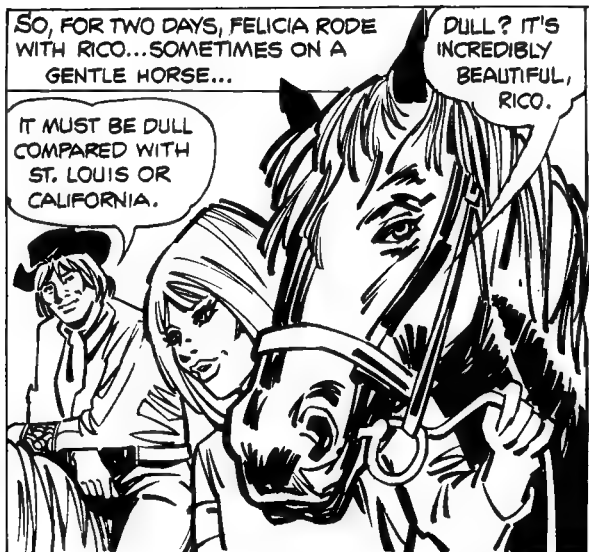
TEN MINUTES LATER SHE KNEW. THE CANVAS WAS UP ON HER CAR AND...

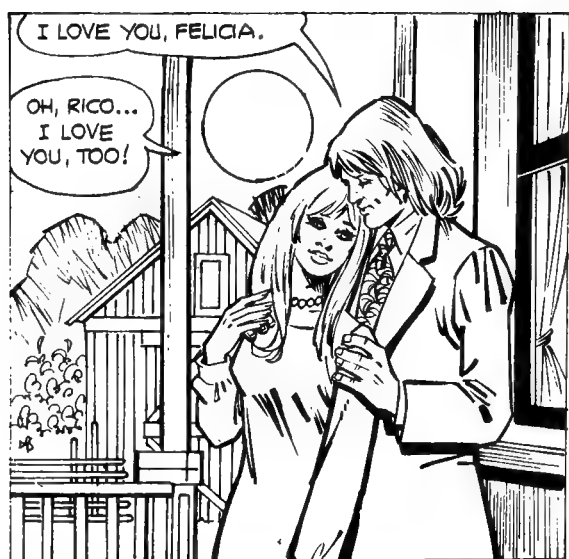
YOU'RE SO KIND, RICO.

MY AUNT AND HER HUSBAND LIVE ON MY RANCH, FELICIA! THEY'LL LOOK AFTER YOU WHILE I SEE THAT YOUR CAR IS REPAIRED.

A black and white comic panel showing a man in a cowboy hat kneeling by the front of a car, looking at the engine area. A speech bubble from him says, "YOU'VE GOT A BIG HOLE IN THE GAS TANK, FELICIA! YOU MUST'VE HIT A HIGH, SHARP ROCK IN THE ROAD!". A speech bubble from the woman in the car says, "I BELIEVE I DID! WHAT CAN I DO ?". In the next panel, two women are talking. One says, "TEN MINUTES LATER SHE KNEW. THE CANVAS WAS UP ON HER CAR AND..." and the other replies, "YOU'RE SO KIND, RICO.". A third speech bubble from the woman says, "MY AUNT AND HER HUSBAND LIVE ON MY RANCH, FELICIA! THEY'LL LOOK AFTER YOU WHILE I SEE THAT YOUR CAR IS REPAIRED.".









# TOMORROW'S TEARS

THIS IS SUNDAY... TOO FAR FROM ANY SETTLEMENT TO ATTEND CHURCH SERVICES... SO DAD HAD READ A PASSAGE FROM THE BIBLE WITH US AND NOW, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, RANDY BOSTWICK HAS RIDDEN DOWN FROM HIS WINTER LODGE TO HAVE DINNER WITH US... A DELIGHTFUL HABIT HE'S GOTTEN INTO AS THE ATTRACTION BETWEEN US DEEPENS! I'M SAFE IN HIS ARMS... I KNOW HE LOVES ME... AND I'M PLANNING TO SAY **YES** WHEN HE **PROPOSES** IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE! WHAT I DON'T REALIZE IS THE TWIN-ENGINE PLANE FLYING DOWN THE VALLEY MAY BECOME A VULTURE SNATCHING HAPPINESS OUT OF OUR LIVES!





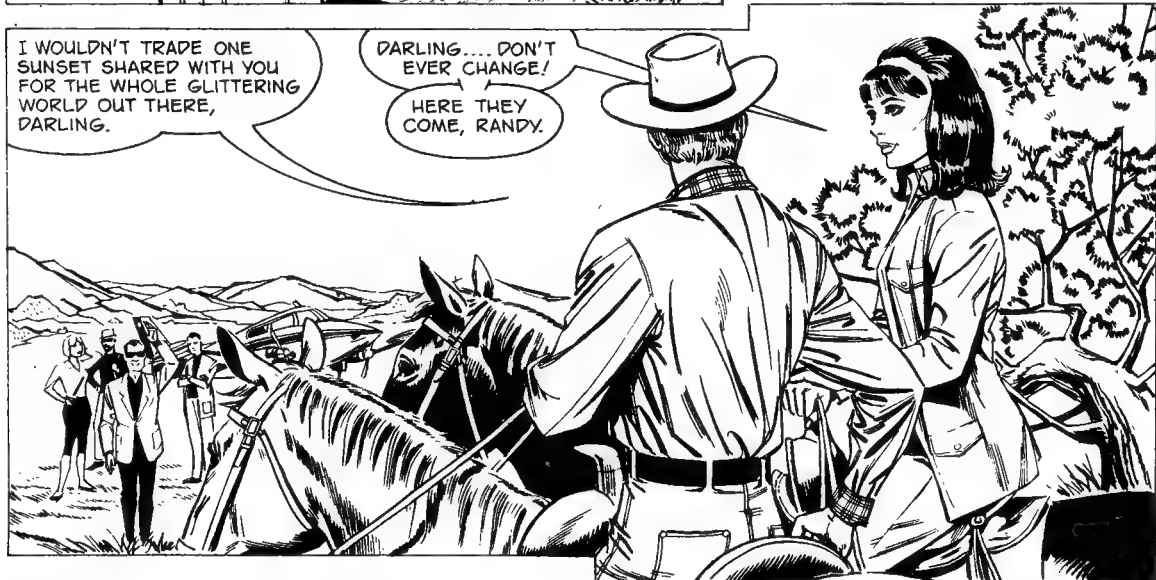
LOOK, RANDY... THAT PLANE IS LANDING HERE. WHO IN THE WORLD...?

THE NAME IS **TROUBLE**, HONEY. **LINUS TROUBLE KELLY**. I USED TO WORK FOR HIM ONCE...



DON'T YOU EVER GET THE URGE TO GO BACK TO THAT LIFE, RANDY?

ALL THAT MONEY? BEAUTIFUL WOMEN? FAST CARS, JET PLANES TO FAR PLACES?



I WOULDN'T TRADE ONE SUNSET SHARED WITH YOU FOR THE WHOLE GLITTERING WORLD OUT THERE, DARLING.

DARLING.... DON'T EVER CHANGE!

HERE THEY COME, RANDY.



GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, RANDY. MAYBE YOU REMEMBER HOLLY DAVES? AND THIS IS ERIC STRONG. THEY'RE MODELING A COLOR T.V. COMMERCIAL FOR A COUPLE OUTDOORS ACCOUNTS.

THE 'BACK TO NATURE' TOUCH, LINUS? HI, KIDS. THIS IS MISS LISA WEBB... HER DAD OWNS THIS RANCH.



WE THOUGHT TO BRING BEAUTY INTO A BARREN LAND... WHEN ALL THE TIME A GREATER BEAUTY AWAITED OUR COMING.

WHY, THANK YOU, MR. STRONG.

STILL FLUSHED WITH PLEASURE AT ERIC'S WORDS, I TURNED TO SEE IF RANDY HAD OVERHEARD..... AND SAW SOMETHING THAT SENT PAIN KNIFING INTO MY HAPPY HEART.

RANDY, I'VE MISSED YOU SINCE YOU QUIT WORKING FOR LINUS. NOBODY COULD **EVER** TURN ME ON THE WAY...

HAVE YOU SAID HELLO TO LISA, HOLLY?

HOW DO YOU DO, MY DEAR? CONSIDERING THE PRIMITIVE LOCALE, YOU **DO** MAKE A NICE APPEARANCE.

I IMAGINE HAVING A LOT OF **BEAUTY EXPERTS** HAS HELPED YOU **CONSIDERABLY**, MISS DAVES.



WHY THAT CREATURE IS POSITIVELY **CATTY**, LINUS.

YOU UNSHEATHED YOUR CLAWS FIRST, PUSSYCAT! COME ON... I'VE GOT TO TALK SAM WEBB INTO PUTTING US UP FOR A COUPLE DAYS. COME ON.

RANDY AND I WERE SO HAPPY... UNTIL THAT PLANE DROPPED INTO OUR LIVES.



DAD AND MOM GLADLY INVITED THEM TO STAY, OF COURSE. IT SEEMS THAT OUR RANCH HAS EXACTLY THE KIND OF ATMOSPHERE AND SCENERY LINUS WANTS FOR HIS T.V. FOOTAGE.

NOT MANY BEAUTIFUL GIRLS KNOW THEIR WAY AROUND A KITCHEN, LISA.

HUSH YOUR FLATTERY AND CARRY THAT TURKEY INSIDE, ERIC.



RANDY, DINNER'S ON THE TABLE. UNLESS YOU AND HOLLY THINK YOU CAN... **LIVE ON LOVE**?

LISA... HOLLY AND I WERE TALKING ABOUT **OLD TIMES**, THAT'S ALL!



OLD TIMES?  
I'LL BET...

WHATEVER YOU'RE *THINKING*,  
HONEY... IS PROBABLY  
CORRECT.



THEY WORK HARD, THOUGH. IN THE MORNING,  
GEORGI AND HIS CAMERAS PUT ERIC AND HOLLY  
THROUGH SCENE AFTER SCENE, TRYING FOR  
THE KIND OF SEQUENCES WHICH WILL SELL  
BEER, CIGARETTES, OR PAPER PLATES.....



GEORGI WANTS US TO  
LOOK *ROMANTIC*, DOLL!  
YOU LOOK AS THOUGH  
YOU'VE GOT  
*INDIGESTION!*

YOU'RE  
STANDING ON MY  
FOOT, STUPID.



I'M LONELY FOR RANDY...WHEN HE DOES COME  
TO THE RANCH, HOLLY MONOPOLIZES HIM. AND  
IN DESPERATION, I'VE BEGUN TO FLIRT WITH  
ERIC...

SHE'S A NATURAL  
...UNAFFECTED  
BEAUTY!



GEORGI, DID YOU  
PHOTOGRAPH  
ME, THEN?

I'VE GOT A LOT OF FILM OF  
YOU, LISA. WHEN HOLLY  
SEES HOW YOU PHOTO-  
GRAPH, SHE'LL  
TURN GREEN!



PERVERSELY, I POSED AGAIN FOR GEORGI.... KNOWING  
HOLLY WOULD BE INFURIATED... AND THAT RANDY WOULD  
NOT BE PLEASED.









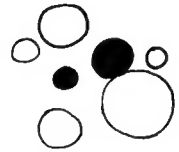






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